during the current financial year (upto December-2001) was Rs. 357.04 crore.

(e) An amount of Rs. 41.18 crore is due for release to the State Government of Kerala in March, 2002.

Re-Orientation programmes for loss making Scheduled Banks

90. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Nationalised or Scheduled Banks are makings losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce any re-orientation programme to improve their operations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there are any proposal to amalgamate the banks which are running in loss;

(f) whether any new Scheduled banks have been registered during the current year;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether profits of any Nationalised or Scheduled Banks are declining; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) During the year ended 31st March, 2001, 2 nationalized banks, 3 private sector banks, 11 foreign banks, 1 scheduled state co-operative bank and 24 regional rural banks incurred losses.

(c) and (d) The public sector banks are taking several steps to improve their performance and increase their profitability which include rationalizing their branch network, abolition of zonal officers, reduction of NPAs, lowering their cost of deposits, increasing

productivity etc. As regards the cooperative banks, a task force to study the functioning of the co-operative credit system and suggest measures for its strengthening had been constituted, which has made wide ranging recommendations. Follow-up action on these recommendations have been initiated. As regards the regional rural banks, efforts are underway to revamp and rebuild them on 'stand-alone' basis.

(e) It is proposed to merge the Benares State Bank Ltd. with Bank of Baroda.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) and (i) The profits of 13 public sector banks, 5 private sector banks and 19 foreign banks had shown decline during the year 2000-01 as compared to their profits during 1999-2000.

Appointment of Directors in Public Sector Banks

[†]91. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 137 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 2001 and state:

(a) the details of the five Members of Parliament who have written a letter between 1st July to 31st October, 2001 with regard to appointment of Director in Public Sector Banks;

(b) the names and address of the persons appointed as Director till date alongwith the name of banks in each case;

(c) the decision taken with regard to persons whose cases were recommended by the Members of Parliament;

(d) whether the persons recommended by Members of Parliament for appointment were lacking in academic qualifications and experience; and

(e) if not, by when they are likely to be appointed as Directors?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.